

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
1:00 pm

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair (*via phone*)
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director (*via phone*)
Michael Barber, General Counsel (*via phone*)
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS (*via phone*)
Maureen Usifer (*via phone*)
Jessica Holmes, PhD (*via phone*)
Tom Pelham (*via phone*)

Executive Director's Report

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced there are two special comment periods posted on the [GMCB website](#), one on the Revised 2020 Medicare Benchmark proposal and the one on the regulatory alignment white papers. The potential vote on the Revised 2020 Medicare Benchmark proposal is scheduled for October 21, 2020. Due to technical difficulties ending the October 7, 2020 meeting, the FY21 Hospital Budget Debrief has been rescheduled to October 21, 2020.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from October 7, 2020.

Public Comment

Chair Mullin opened the meeting to public comment on the 2019 ACO Payer-Quality Results presented at the October 7, 2020 meeting, which was cut off due to technical difficulties. No further public comment was received.

Revised 2020 Medicare Benchmark Proposal

Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Data Analytics, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg explained that due to the public health emergency, the prospective financial targets approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for performance year 2020 can no longer be considered appropriate, and that given the uncertainty it seems most appropriate to revise the GMCB's proposed benchmark using a retrospective trend factor. Without this revision, CMS would use its authority to recalculate the financial targets independently. This financial target is for the Medicare Participation Agreement between CMS and OneCare Vermont, which sets annual, prospective targets ("Benchmarks") for the spending for Medicare beneficiaries attributed to OneCare Vermont. The GMCB usually sets these targets

in November/December preceding the target year. Sarah Lindberg reviewed the Medicare COVID-19 financial flexibilities, the components and calculation of the Medicare Benchmark, the total Vermont Medicare expenditures, the dramatic decrease in spending in April 2020, the per person Vermont Medicare expenditures, the revised proposal, and the advanced shared savings. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with Sarah Lindberg about guardrails around the recalculation of the benchmark, possible complications for hospitals, the 2019 reference population, and maintaining the funds invested to support the Blueprint for Health and SASH. The presentation can be seen [here](#) and the draft letter can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Public Comment

Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS

Old Business

None

New Business

Chair Mullin congratulated Susan Gretkowski on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her work in the healthcare field.

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 1:30 pm.